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W. Beaumont [Plattsburgh, NY] to John Beaumont and other family [Lebanon, CT] regarding: notice of permanent station in Saint Louis, travels across the United States, possible agricultural investments. April 22, 1835

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Plattsburgh  
22<sup>nd</sup> April 1835

My Dear Brother & Sisters -

I have neither written or rec<sup>d</sup> letters from you for many months. For the last 30 months I have been almost constantly moving about & travelling over the United States from Mississippi to Maine - from East to West - from North to South - from Lake Champlain to Missouri & back again - I have now just returned from Jefferson Barracks Mo, where I spent the latter part of winter on official duties - I leave this in a few days with my family for the ' far West ' again. I am to be stationed in the City of St. Louis, Mo. hereafter. I hope to be there by the middle of June. Shall expect to hear from you all soon after my arrival there - Let me know how you are - how you all prosper & flourish & particularly how our dear Sister Lucy is situated - if her condition be any more unpleasant than when I was there. I shall write to her soon - You must communicate to her the purport of this, the first opportunity.

I expect to be permanently located in St. Louis, at least for several years ensuing, & as soon as I get foothold & fairly settled I shall look around for prospects & hope to be able to find some opportunity to do something for her boys - I have their, her own, & her children's future, comfort & well fare much at heart, & shall effect them as fast as possible consistently with circumstances - And if you, & the girls should feel a mutual migratory spirit, & your circumstances & situations will warrant a removal from your natal soil, to be transplanted in the "far West " I will be looking out for you also -

But you must not be impatient of such an event, nor in so great a hurry as to render your present condition unnecessarily unpleasant - Time & patience are indispensable to the due accomplishment of all laudable undertakings - It will be a year or two before I can get fairly established & "going a head " in my new position. - I can then probably do something for others - Do the best you can, as you are, with a view to present comfort, as well as future interests & prosperity - The culture and manufacture of Silk is becoming an object of national as well as individual attention, I perceive - Perhaps the practical knowledge & long experience of our family, may be of mutual advantage to us in some future plan of pursuits -

To turn my own attention & resources to that business, has frequently suggested itself to my mind of late - I shall deliberate further on the subject & interchange thoughts with you & the girls on the propriety & practicability of such a pursuit -

I take mulberry seed with me to the west with a view to commence the growth of the Trees - I shall write again on this subject, & in the meantime my dear brother & Sisters, believe me

Yours affectionately  
W<sup>m</sup> Beaumont

( this letter addressed to

John Beaumont, Esq.  
Lebanon  
Conn<sub>u</sub>

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From Yale University Collection

Reid Nov. 1961